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Tree lighting event weathers change

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

A holiday tradition will endure as members of all different faiths in town came out to hold a tree lighting ceremony on the Veterans Green last Sunday night.

Mayor Richard Cohen led the

short ceremony, as he gathered with leaders in the Agawam Clergy Association.

The various church leaders have been organizing the event for the past eight years. The person behind the lighting most recently was Pastor Earl Eisenbach, who retired from Agawam Congregational Church last year. Following his retirement, there was no question the faith leaders in town wanted to continue the tradition. So did Cohen

"The holidays are supposed to be a very happy time no matter what faith you have or what you celebrate," Cohen. "I love the holidays and I am really happy to be here to keep this tradition going." Cohen authorizes the Veterans Council to decorate the gazebo on the Veterans Green. The faith leaders then choose a Sunday in December, hold a brief ceremony, and light the tree and sing a couple of Christmas carols.

This year, two of the churches helped provide refreshments for the people who attended the ceremony. The rainy weather was not ideal for the tree lightings, but Cohen was happy to see people make it out

"We had a pretty good crowd," said Cohen.

Pastor Bill Pass of the Church of Redemption is the new president of the Clergy Association. He

Please see TREE, page 2

Help for the holidays

Students open their hearts and piggy banks

By Mike Lydick Turley Publications Correspondent

ver the past month, students at Phelps Elementary School have brightened the lives of others, eased the burdens of those in need, and proved that the real magic of the Christmas season is generosity.

Between Nov. 10 and Dec. 12, the school's more than 400 kindergarten through grade 4 students participated in a "Month of Giving." They spread holiday joy by collecting for different local charitable organizations and sending greetings to military members.

During their first week of giving, students collected nearly 320 pounds of instant mashed potatoes and cans and jars of gravy distributed to seniors and needy residents in holiday baskets prepared by the Agawam Junior Women's Club.

In week two, students used their writing skills to bring some holiday cheer to military men and women stationed overseas, penning 406 letters to troops.

During the third week, students filled four large boxes with animal-friendly items such as cat litter, cat and dog toys, and food — including a 55-pound bag of dog food — for the new Southwick Animal Shelter.

In the final week, students donated 96 new, unwrapped toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots. Many will wind up under Christmas trees at homes of needy children in the community.

Noelle Colbert, the school's principal, said students "truly understand what it means to give back" to those who are less fortunate. "This is especially important for me since it's my first year as principal," she added.

Students were so enthusiastic
— especially during the toy drive
— that many of them arrived early
just to put their donations on the
"giving" tables.

"They really wanted to help. It's simply wonderful to see the type of students we have at Phelps — and how truly giving and empa-

Please see SCHOOLS, page 8



Turley Publications photos by Mike Lydick

Above: Phelps Elementary School paraprofessional Kellee Morello (center) and principal Noelle Colbert join students, from left, Rachel Cohen, 9, Sonny Pioggia, 9, Aidan Cauley, 7, and Mia Oyler, 6, to look over some of the toys collected for Toys for Tots. Below: One of Santa's helpers — Agawam Junior Women's Club member Alexis Simmons — loads a sack full of Christmas goodies into a van on Saturday as part of the club's annual "holiday baskets" program.

Women's club delivers food, clothes baskets

By Mike Lydick

Turley Publications Correspondent

arly last Saturday morning, a convoy of cars carrying food and clothing left a Main Street warehouse and fanned out through Agawam and Feeding Hills to make some special deliveries just in time for Christmas.

The caravan was organized by the Agawam Junior Women's Club, whose members distributed "holiday baskets" to seniors and families in need. The club has been supplying the ingredients for a happy holiday for more than 30 years.

During the past three decades, nearly 1,300 families, more than 500 seniors, and almost 3,200 children have been served by the program. This holiday season, AJWC assisted 43 families, 12 seniors and 101 children with food to make a holiday meal, gifts of children's clothing and a grocery store gift card.

Originally known as "The Clearing House Project," it began as a coordinated effort between AJWC and local churches to help needy residents.

Please see BASKETS, page 8



Fire It. retires after 3 decades

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

Through more than 30 years on and off the truck, Agawam Fire Lt. Jim Lancour has enjoyed coming to work.

Lancour said goodbye to his fellow firefighters and the job he had for more than three decades when he retired from the fire department last Saturday.

"It is always a difficult time when you lose that much experience on the front lines," said Fire Chief Alan Sirois.

Last Thursday night, several of his fellow firefighters gathered to honor Lancour with a retirement party. Lancour said he will miss the comradery with the other firefighters the most.

"I love working with these guys and I will really miss being around them every day," said Lancour. "I still plan on golfing with many of them."

Lancour said he started with the fire department not long after finishing up with the U.S. Navy. He came home to Agawam, where he was a 1977 graduate of Agawam High School. He applied for the fire department and went to training. He was appointed to the fire department in and has worked there ever since.

During the first part of his tenure, Lancour decided to help out on the ambulance side and became a fully trained EMT. He achieved EMT Intermediate and split time riding in the fire truck and the ambulance.

In 2005, he was promoted to lieutenant and worked strictly in the fire department. He was recently running the operation at Station 2 on Springfield Street. He was leading a crew that included several younger and newer firefighters.

One of them, Jordan Molta, **Please see FIRE, page 9**



HERITAGE WOODS RESIDENTS DONATE TO TOYS FOR TOTS



Submitted photo

A group of residents from Heritage Woods Assisted Living, 462 Main St., Agawam, went to the WWLP-TV 22 News studio in Chicopee on Monday, Dec. 15, to donate several toys for the U.S. Marine Corps' annual Toys for Tots campaign. Pictured, from left to right, are Robert Bopp, Doreen Scott, Kathleen Fleming, Gunnery Sgt. John Fleming of the U.S. Marine Corps, Malcolm Dunn and Jane Messier.

Christmas tree collection is Jan. 5-8

The Agawam Department of Public Works has announced that Republic Services will again provide a courtesy collection of Christmas trees on the same day as residents' scheduled trash collection the week of Jan. 5-8.

Christmas trees 7 feet or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. of the collection day. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

It is not the responsibility of the hauler to

dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall. The regular trash truck will not be collecting trees; a separate truck will be running the collection on the same date.

For residents wishing to dispose of their tree prior to or after the scheduled collection day, yard waste passes for Bondi's Island Landfill are available at the DPW, at 1000 Suffield St., Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ACAA meeting to feature acrylic artist

Artisans will meet Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St. Featured guest will be Loretta Medeiros, acrylic artist, who will demonstrate "Fun with Acrylics.'

The demonstration will focus on creating

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The Agawam Community Artists and a background using a technique. Medeiros will paint a composition while explaining how to do the background technique and other techniques to complete the composition. She will also discuss different types of acrylics and painting surfaces.

Guests are welcome.



We wish you a joyous holiday season and New Year filled with the promise of peace and happiness.

For your convenience, our offices will be open until 1pm Wednesday, December 24th and until 3pm, Wednesday, December 31st. We will be closed on Thursday, December 25th and Thursday, January 1st to enjoy family and friends. Regular hours will resume on December 26th and January 2nd.



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TREE, from page 1

took over following Eisenbach's retirement. He said after the Veterans Council does its part and decorates, the Clergy Association organizes the tree lighting, and he plans to continue doing that.

"It's really a nice way to get everyone together for the holidays," said Pass. "It does not matter what faith you practice. This time of year is about peace and joy.'

Pastor Tim Reed from the Bethany Assembly of God said he is pleased Agawam's faith leaders have a strong united front.

"We have been taking part in this event for many years," said Reed. "This is a really positive things for the community. In this day in age, it is nice to see people from so many faiths coming together. It speaks very well for our churches and our community. I'm not sure of a lot of other communities that bring the different faiths together for this sort of thing."

Pass says he wants to keep working together with the other faith leaders and make the tradition a yearly occurrence for years to come. The refreshments provided this year added a small element to the short ceremony.

The tree can be seen from Main Street for the next several days through the holiday



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

From left, Gordan and Deana Carpenter, Pastor Tim Reed, Mark Stapleton, Pastor Bill Pass, Mayor Richard Cohen, and Robert Magovern surround the Christmas tree lit up in the gazebo on the Veterans Green last Sunday night at an interfaith event organized by the Agawam Clergy Association.

Early deadlines for New Year edition

Because of the New Year's holiday, the Agawam Advertiser News asks readers and advertisers to be aware of early deadlines this week.

Press releases, submitted photos and community news must be received by the end of the day this Friday, Dec. 26, to be considered for inclusion in the Jan. 1 edition of the Advertiser News. News may be sent to Teri Machia at aan@turley.com.

Machia can be reached at 413-786-7747, ext. 100. Editor Michael Ballway can be reached at 413-786-7747, ext. 102.

For businesses wishing to advertise in the Jan. 1 edition, the deadline to contact sales representative John Baskin is also the end of the business day Friday, Dec. 26. Baskin can be reached at jbaskin@turley. com or 413-786-7747, ext. 101.







Panel wants used car dealers inspected next year

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Correspondent

The Agawam City Council's Administrative Subcommittee will be asking the town's Inspection Services Department to do complete site plan checks when going through the license renewal process for used car dealerships.

Administrative Subcommittee Chairman Robert Rossi told his fellow city councilors on Monday night that his committee recommended approving the remainder of the Class 2 dealership licenses for 2015, but that they would require a report from Inspection Services next year stating the dealership properties were complying with their indi-

"Every individual car dealership in our town has to go through the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals to get site plan approval for their car lots when they first apply for a license," said Rossi.

Depending on where the dealerships are located, they have requirements to meet, such as buffer zones, lighting, or limits on the number of cars on the lot.

"This is not something we do every year," said Rossi. "But the Inspection Services Department is supposed to keep an eye on all these dealerships when they submit for a li-

Asking for the site plan check during the renewal process makes it convenient for Inspection Services to get the job done while going through the typical license renewal

Erik Wight, the head of inspection services for the town of Agawam, says he will be looking to see that the dealerships are conforming to the conditions of their site plan approvals when the dealerships are inspected near the end of 2015.

Wight says inspections are normally conducted around the time of license renewal and whenever a complaint is filed against a dealership. However, full site plan checks are not done every year. Site plans are expected to be provided to Inspection Services for the 2016 renewals.

Rossi says he is getting the word out now to dealerships in case there are minor issues that need to be addressed. The advance notice gives the dealerships enough time to make repairs or modifications so they are in full compliance with their site plans.

He also said the council is not targeting any specific dealerships and there have not been any major issues with dealerships complying with their site plans.

"We have not received any specific complaints about any dealerships," said Rossi. "We are just trying to 'get our house in order.' We have not done the full site plan checks since I started doing licenses 10 years ago on the council."

Rossi says his subcommittee, which included councilors Donald Rheault and Anthony Suffriti at Monday night's meeting, was in agreement about requiring the site

Rossi says he is hoping the request will not cause problems with any of the dealer-

"For the most part, our dealerships conform to the town code," said Rossi. "Compliance to the site plans that were approved to get license renewal is already in the town

Class 2 car dealerships are business where used cars are sold. Depending on the size of properties, the permit stipulates how many cars can be on the lot at a time.

Cultural Council gives \$10K to local arts programs

By Michael J. Ballway Turley Publications Staff Writer

Eleven local organizations and events have been selected to receive \$10,450 in grant funding from the state budget through the Massachusetts and Agawam cultural councils, Agawam Cultural Council Chairman Robert Kadis said last week.

This year's grants include several Applause Series performances, library art workshops and events at Granger, Phelps and Robinson Park elementary schools. State Sen. Donald Humason Jr., R-Westfield, and state Rep. Nicholas Boldyga, R-Southwick, said they were pleased to help announce the local recipients of Massachusetts Cultural Council grants.

"Cultural councils are staffed by local volunteers and they work very hard to ensure all citizens, but particularly our youth, are afforded high quality opportunities to participate and learn about the arts and humanities," Humason said. "The Agawam Cultural Council does an outstanding job, and I am proud to support them in their efforts."

"I'm pleased to announce that Agawam has received a number of grants for arts and humanities programs," Boldyga said. "MCC grants help to ensure that cultural resources in Agawam and across the commonwealth are accessible to residents."

The organizations and individual events receiving grants are:

Agawam Catalyst: \$300 to Kathy Shepard to publish printed copies of the online

Agawam Public Library Summer Reading Program: \$375 for "Super 'U' Hero Training Academy," and \$300 through Craig Harris for "A Celebration of America's Great Musical Heroes."

Agawam Senior Center: \$700 for "Gangsters in Love: A Comedy Murder

Agawam St. Patrick's Day Commitee Inc.: \$750 to help build the 2015 St. Patrick's Day Parade float.

Applause Series: \$400 through Jay Berger for a "Gen. Ulysses S. and Mrs. Grant" program; \$550 through Elaine Carlson for a "Dan Kane and Friends" concert; both part of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series of performances.

Benjamin J. Phelps School PTO: \$795 to bring the Sky Dome Planetarium to

Clifford M. Granger School PTO: \$748 for a field trip to the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, "The Rite of Spring"; \$650 to bring Tanglewood Marionettes' "Hansel and Gretel" to Granger; \$500 to bring Young Audiences of Massachusetts' "Clap Your Hands" to Granger; \$220 to bring the Historical Deerfield Museum Quill Writing Experience to Granger.

Gregory Maichack: \$455 to present 'Scarlet Poppies: Pastel Paint Like Georgia O'Keeffe," a painting program at the Agawam Public Library.

Music from Marengo: \$200 to Joel Meginsky to present this "singalong-friendly" program at the Agawam Public Library, including "instrumental improvisation based on familiar melodies from jazz, blues, country, gospel and ethnic" music.

Music Matters Festival: \$900 to Paul Sawyer, music director at the Phelps and Robinson Park schools, to fund this annual festival with student and professional musicians in School Street Park.

Robinson Park School PTO: \$807 for a visit by Jerry Pallotta, children's book author; \$800 for a visit by Ralph Masiello, children's book author and illustrator; and \$500 for a visit by Len Cabral, storyteller.

Roger Tincknell: \$500 for Children's Songs and Singing Games, a series of nine 45-minute multicultural music workshops for pre-kindergarten children, to be held over a two-day period at the Agawam Head Start on Main Street.

In all, 19 grants were awarded. There were 23 grant applications this year, totaling \$17,696 in requests.

The Agawam Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the Commonwealth. The LCC Program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences and humanities every year. The state Legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community.

Decisions about which activities to support are made at the community level by a board of municipally appointed volunteers. The members of the Agawam Cultural Council are Jane Eitel, Donna Fitzgerald, Harry Georgiades, Kadis, Andrea LaPlace, Walter Mantani, Dave Owens, Jackie Owens, Doug Reed, Elsa Rosenak, Ceil Rossi, John C. Stone and Maryellen Sullivan.

The Agawam Cultural Council will seek applications again in the fall. Information and forms are available online at www.agawamcc.org. Applications are due Oct. 15,

Blood drive at Agawam Congregational

745 Main St., will host a Baystate Health blood drive Friday, Jan. 9, from 10 a.m.

to 2 p.m. in the church parking lot. Walk-ins are welcome. Donors must state Health scarf.

The Agawam Congregational Church, present a picture identification, must be 17 years or older, in good health and weigh at least 110 pounds.

Each eligible donor will receive a Bay-

ARE YOU OLD NEWS?

Each week the Agawam Advertiser News digs into its submitted photo archives and selects a people photo to publish. We need your help to help identify those pictured. Email your answers

by Monday at noon to mball-

way@turley.com.

Last week's pho-

to: Correctly identifying Wally Moreno were Jessie Rivers, Lou Scherpa and Matt Blackak.

'Slightly mad' magic Jan. 9 The 11th season of the Agawam Cultural Council's Applause Series continues on and the United States Coast Guard.

Friday, Jan. 9, at 7 p.m., when the "slightly mad" Celtic Magician Daniel GreenWolf brings his special brand of magic to the Agawam Senior Center.

"The Magic of Daniel GreenWolf" is a performance that combines highly visual magic, theatrical storytelling, exhilarating Irish music, interactive comedy and thrilling danger and wraps it all in a Celtic theme that has been described as "a witty, modernday Celtic Viking. Like James Joyce with a broad sword.'

Daniel GreenWolf is an award-winning magician, writer, and slightly mad Irishman. He has been voted as one of the top five solo variety acts in the United States by the Renaissance Festival Podcast and Renaissance Magazine for five years in a row. GreenWolf has performed thousands of shows for hundreds of clients and venues including the Big E, the Mark Twain House, Bank of America,

This event is sponsored by Hampden

The Agawam Senior Center is located at 954 Main St. and can be reached by phone at 413-821-0604. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

Additional information on each of the Applause Series events is available at www. agawamcc.org.

The Agawam Cultural Council is an allvolunteer local partner of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and is funded, in part, by the MCC. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.

'Luck O' the Irish' offered as gift

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee is accepting reservations for its "Driveway Shamrock," just in time to give it as a Christmas gift. To have a shamrock painted next spring, send a check for \$25

to the Agawam St. Patrick's Committee, P.O. Box 825, Agawam, MA 01001. Include email address and phone number and you will be contacted.





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Opinion

We mean it – **Merry Christmas**

ore than two thousand years ago, a child was born who grew up to change the world with a radically simple theology: God loves us all, we should all love God, we should all love each other as God loves us. Above all else, remember that.

As a society, in the past two millennia we've come to recognize the birth of Jesus Christ as something worth celebrating, a beacon of light in the dark of winter, and even those who don't participate in many of the dogmas and rituals that have grown out of Jesus Christ's simple teachings — and even those who profess no faith in Jesus at all join in the giving of gifts, singing of songs and spirit of charity at Christmastime. We've come to believe that Christmas represents the best in all of us, the joy of childhood, the hope of faith. We've come to love Christmas.

And we don't like to see Christmas at-

Agawam lit a Christmas tree last weekend but earlier this month, before city leaders bowed to public outcry, Holyoke put up a "holiday tree." Agawam has the right approach: the tree lighting is led by local clergy, rather than Town Hall, which allows the ceremony to focus more on the religious aspect. Either way, however, it deserves to be called a Christmas tree — it's a symbol unique in modern times to Christianity (which borrowed it from ancient pagan displays), like the menorah is to Hanukkah.

Political correctness goes too far when it tries to eliminate every vestige of Jesus Christ from a holiday that exists primarily to celebrate him. But the so-called defenders of Christmas can take it to an extreme, too. All across the United States, every year we hear about corporations banning employees from saying "merry Christmas" and schools removing religious Christian songs from their winter choir performances. Then the predictable backlash: Indignant parents demanding that school calendars acknowledge "Christmas break." Radio-show warriors waving a bloody shirt for the "War on Christmas." These are the Christians?

God loves us all. We should all love God. We should all love each other as God loves

Our nation of immigrants embraces every faith community of the world, and a substantial number of people who choose not to believe in any religion. It's impossible to tell who's Christian and who isn't simply by sight. Even if your town is 90 percent Christian, one-tenth of several thousand is several hundred — and that's a lot of customers, students and taxpayers to be disrespecting by blithely assuming they belong to the majority faith. Sometimes, the only fair alternative to the generic "happy holidays" is silence.

The real "reason for the season" is to spread the joy and hope of Jesus Christ not to force his name on those who have chosen a different tradition. Jesus Christ wasn't born to inspire petty hatred and sow division among people who are simply trying to hold a community event, sing a song, offer a salutation. Anyone who truly believes in a merry Christmas should start with charity and love — loving all our neighbors, even those whose religious beliefs don't mirror our own, as God loves us.

So for those of you who prefer, happy holidays

For the rest — merry Christmas. We mean it.

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Letter to the Editor

Holiday Basket Raffle again a big success

To the editor:

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library held another very successful Holiday Basket Raffle. This was our sixth year and we made \$974.

We had 15 baskets to raffle off thanks to the generosity of many people. I would like to thank the following people and companies for providing the baskets: Kathy Arnold, Jean Clark, Judy Clini, Mayor Richard Cohen, K. M. Cournoyer, Friends of the Friends (Anna and Elsa), Geissler's, the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club, Bruce and Pam Jacobsen, the Main Street Deli, Pat McMahon, Nancy Spagnoli and Ginny Walkwitz-Fish (Colonial Forastiere Funeral & Cremation). They all did a wonderful job in coming up with exciting themes and attractive baskets.

The following people were the lucky winners of the 15 baskets and their goodies: Mary Camp, Andrea Ciak, Cheryl Ciaschini, E. Cormier, Stephanie Hodgdon, Sandra Jagodowski, Gloria King, Bob Mattarazzo, Lynne Merceri, Donna Scherpa, Kathy Tomassetti, Brende Tyburski and Craig Wacks. Congratulations to you all.

I would also like to thank the Agawam community for their enthusiastic support of the event and their help in making our sixth annual Holiday Basket Raffle such a rousing success. With your help in the future, we will make the seventh annual Holiday Basket Raffle even more of a success.

> Marcia E. Capuano, President Friends of the Agawam Public Library

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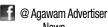
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News



Fiftieth reunion for the 1964s

YESTERDAY'S HOMETOWN NEWS

و المستوالية المستوادة

Advertiser News Columnist

Editor's note: The Agawam Advertiser News is pleased to welcome Walt Willard back to these pages. "Yesterday's Hometown News," a chance to catch up with former Agawam High School athletes and other town residents, will return as a regular feature in the Advertiser News.

This fall has been a busy one for me, doing 31 squares of roofing in Longmeadow on the home our Mayor Cohen grew up in. The white trim didn't look as white once the new roof was on, so the owner had me paint it. Many times I would look down at the yard and picture the mayor and his brother Alan playing catch or touch football with their friends.

Before writing this column I wanted to meet the new editor, Mike Ballway, and tell him how Al Fenney started everything back in 2007 when he asked me to try to get editor Ric Sardella to

publish a picture of the Deloghia Jets Little League team. Now it's 2014 and this is the 160th column about Agawam High alumni who graduated from 1923 to 1984.

The '64s held their 50th reunion this fall at Crestview Country Club, the same place that Andy Raguskus, John Trzcinski and I searched the pond for golf balls 50 years earlier. Maybe it was the night of their graduation. Reunions of your own can be fun, exciting and sometimes dangerous. You can get, "I would never have known ya" from a classmate or get embarrassed when you don't recognize an old

My first conversation was with Billy Polopek, who was a '66 but came with his brother Bobby '64. Billy's retired but Bob is still teaching jet pilots in California. Valerie Falbo, looking like Valerie Falbo, walked by as Dick Chandler insisted on buying me a drink. Dick is retired but helping his wife Denise with her photography business. He

told me his family's home was at 567 Suffield St., now the home of the Polaski family. That's not the AHS geometry teacher and photographer. His name was Dave Pulaski and he lives in Granville. He used to give kids train rides on Halloween. Check with him before you head out there. How many Brownies had their pictures taken by him at AHS or at their weddings?

John Klenakis wrote a nice piece about the '64s' history up to graduation but the '64s did not publish a reunion book similar to those made by the '60s, '61s, '62s and '63s. Our

library may have copies of those. Not sure. The '63s will get one there this winter. Larry Sherpa '65 has added to his "Train Whistles in the Night" and you can borrow it at the reference desk in the lower level of the library.

Dawn (Greenfield) Ireland was at the reunion with her sister Cheryl '64 and Billy Higgins. Dawn's a technical writer and editor and wrote the book "Hot Chocolate," which was on the Amazon best-seller list for eight months. The Greenfield home was at 831 S. Westfield St., but I don't think there is a home there now.

Please see HOMETOWN, page 5

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

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'Perfection'

FAITH

MATTERS

Rev. Brad

PETERSON

hristmas is all about Jesus. Without Jesus there would not be any Christmas. The reason Jesus came to this earth was because human beings had a problem. We sin, which means we aren't perfect and perfection is the requirement for heaven. It isn't hard to believe that people sin. Even young children are prone to disobedience

and defying their parents at an early age; nobody teachers a child how to be defiant. In fact no one believes they are perfect, though some may believe they can attain perfection. But even they would admit that along the way to attaining perfection you are bound to make mistakes, which means you aren't perfect. So if perfection is the requirement for heaven, we need Jesus to make us perfect and that is why He came to earth.

HOPE COMMUNITY Some people believe that they are imperfect, but that they don't need Jesus. They can make themselves good enough for heaven. If their good outweighs their bad, then they are granted access to heaven. More and more people are believing this to be true. Even parts of Christianity are accepting this possibility, which means we don't need Jesus. The problem with this logic is that it downgrades heaven. Heaven begins to look more and more like earth and less and less like the wonderful place it was intended to be. I personally want heaven to be as wonderful as possible and that is why perfection is the standard God has set. God also set this standard because he is perfect and can have nothing to do with imperfection. The slightest amount of imperfection would make God

imperfect. We can never be good enough because good enough isn't perfect. We need

Recently, someone approached me and told me that they thought God was imperfect, something I had never even thought of being possible. Their reasoning came from the presence of sin and evil in the world.

God created everything; therefore. He must be responsible for creating sin and evil. Thus, God was not perfect; He made some mistakes. God being imperfect would change everything. If God isn't perfect then we don't need to be perfect. If we don't need to be perfect then we don't need Jesus to make us perfect. In fact, we can probably be good enough to get to heaven.

So how do I know that God is perfect? The Bible tells me so.

But you have to believe in the Bible to use that as your answer. Christmas tells me that God is perfect. That's why Jesus came. There is no reason for Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, if we don't need to be made perfect.

This Christmas we need to remember that God gave us the perfect gift to make us perfect so that He could have relationship with us for eternity in heaven. Jesus is the reason for the season and we need Him more than ever. Won't you invite Jesus to be in your life this Christmas? He came to us so that we might come to Him. All you have to do is ask Jesus to be in your life and then surrender your will to Him, letting Jesus guide you into living best.



The YMCA hockey team circa 1959: back row, left to right, Bob Sullivan, Dave Moreno, Walter Monkiewicz, Michael Hopkins, Jim Harkins, Paul Gazillo, Ron Penna, Dan DiBiasio and David Robinson. Front row, Walt Willard, Zaven Vorperian (coach and YMCA director), Armand Bruneau, John Decker and Len Patnode. In 1964, Dave Robinson was the class president and Dan DiBiasio was the class treasurer. This picture appeared in the Annual Report of 1960.

HOMETOWN, from page 4

Tom Ruddeforth told me about the time his neighbor Stu Kibbe '52 came out of his house on Doane Avenue to kick a football in the street where Tom and his buddies were playing. Tom had a Food Mart Aces Little League picture and we counted six of the Aces there at Crestview. Crestview owner Dave Fleury stopped by and told me that Stu Safford '46 was his grandfather. Paula (Zucco) Rodier and Joanne (Cimaroli) Brown said hello just before John Litchfield '63 came over. John's wife Lynn (Kupec) is a '64. Jim Arnold explained the Arnold family to me. Gary Churchill, Tom Ennis and Paul Arnold were his cousins. Larry and Shirley (Cimma) Rinaldi told me that my soccer player, their daughter Melissa, is a dental hygienist in Rhode Island. Their son Larry lives here in Agawam. Lenore Pupello has

been an interior designer in Maine for 31

It was nice to see Wayne and Vivian Morse, Joe and Rose Rossi and Ted and Sherry (Royer) Affleck. Bob Sullivan and Dave Robinson, AHS hockey players, helped me identify kids in the old picture shown here. Bob and Dave both look pretty much the same as they did 50 years ago. Dave lives in Georgia now but grew up in the home at 1215 Main St., occupied now by retired band director Darcy Davis.

The '65s are working on their 50th, which will be at Crestview in less than a year. Watch for ticket information here in the Agawam Advertiser News.

Walt Willard, an Agawam resident, is a former teacher and coach at Agawam High

MEMA rolls out emergency alert app

Two years ago, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency launched a free alerting app called Ping4Alerts. Since then, the app has helped keep residents of the commonwealth alerted to severe weather (tornadoes, hurricanes, tropical storms, and severe thunderstorms), hazardous material incidents, evacuation orders, shelter-in-place orders, Amber Alerts, unsafe drinking water supplies, and other types of incidents and disasters.

On Sept. 1, MEMA officially launched the next generation of its free alerting app, called MassachusettsAlerts. Massachusetts Alerts, which still utilizes Ping4Alerts' platform and technology, is customized for Massachusetts and will allow MEMA and other public safety agencies to provide emergency notifications. In addition to providing alerts and critical information about ongoing incidents and disasters, Massachusetts Alerts will also provide preparedness tips and information, and direct users to online resources to help prepare for, manage during, and recover from a wide range of natural, technological and man-made hazards that threaten the residents of the commonwealth.

Massachusetts Alerts provides emergency notifications and public safety information based on your location, proximity to an event or incident, and the preferences you select.

MEMA encourages all residents of the commonwealth to download Massachusetts Alerts. Massachusetts Alerts is available for Apple (http://ow.ly/zxXO7) and Android (http://ow.ly/zxY1j) smartphones and tab-

Current users of Ping4Alerts will continue to receive alerts from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency; MEMA now pushes alerts and critical information to Massachusetts Alerts and Ping4Alerts.

Colleen applications due Dec. 31

The Agawam St. Patrick's Committee is seeking applicants for the 2015 colleen contest. Applications may be obtained at Agawam High School, the Agawam Public Library, Agawam Town Hall and Cooper's Commons and Gifts.

Applicants must be between the ages of 17 and 22, single with no children, a resident of Agawam or Feeding Hills, express an interest in continuing education and must claim Irish ancestry.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

The Agawam Coronation will take place Feb. 8 at Chez Josef. The colleen and her court will promote a sense of spirit in the local Irish community through various community activities, which culminate in the annual Holyoke St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 22. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply. The deadline for application is Dec. 31. Completed applications may be mailed to Agawam St. Patrick's Committee, P.O. Box 825, Agawam, MA 01001.

K of C to host blood drive

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The Knights Of Columbus will host a blood drive for Mercy Medical Center's Blood Bank Tuesday, Jan. 6, from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-3091.

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Turley 5

'he Agawam Advertiser News, a Turley Publi-

cation, covering Agawam and Feeding Hills, is seeking a freelance correspondent to cover

municipal and school district meetings on a regu-

lar basis. Applicants should be familiar with town

government and have good writing skills. A degree

in communications, English or journalism is not

required, but encouraged. The applicant should be

available on nights. Position is paid per story. Please

send cover letter, resume and writing samples to

Editor Tim Kane at 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills,

MA 01030 or tkane@turley.com. No phone calls or

drop-ins please.

www.turley.com

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places and local advertisers of each business community - Turley Publications, - publishing local press Inc. celebrates publishing releases, covering the events community newspapers in that matter and featuring the Pioneer Valley. We know local businesses on our pages first hand the value of true in every issue. We continue local news. With 15 weekly to offer a value other media newspapers, serving 50 local can't - we're truly local all communities, we keep our the time.

uilt on everything local readers informed, educated - stories, community and entertained each week. events, sports, people, Turley is also an integral part

























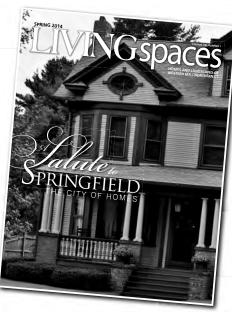






Now in its seventh year of publication – *Living Spaces* continues to showcase exceptional interior and exterior design projects of homeowners throughout Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut. It's the only local publication of its kind. Visit livingspacesmagazine.com to view the latest edition.

LIVING SPACES IS A TURLEY PUBLICATION.



Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will host a blood drive for Mercy Medical Center's Blood Bank from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 413-786-3091.

Friday, Jan. 9

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S APPLAUSE SERIES continues with "The Magic of Daniel GreenWolf" beginning at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Senior Center. Free to the public.

Wednesday, Jan. 14

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERTS at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Diane Lipari, soprano, Kimberly Figueroa on flute and Miguel Campinho on piano, at 10:30 a.m. Free refreshments. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

ONGOING

ADULT DROP-IN SIT AND KNIT meets every Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library. No registration needed.

HALL FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Submitted photo

Students from Agawam High School participated in a holiday event at Heritage Hall nursing home on Dec. 18. A program that was implemented by Melinda Bolduc, Homestead program director, and Lisa Sheehan, Agawam High School Career Center coordinator, has given the students the opportunity to learn about dementia, visit the residents at Heritage Hall and to participate in events throughout the year.

THE LADIES GLEE CLUB AND MEN'S CHOIR at the Springfield Turnverein are back to work. Practice is held every Wednesday with the ladies beginning at 7 p.m. followed by the men at 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. There is space available for anyone interested in joining.

A BLOOD CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., Agawam Senior Center conference room. A light dinner is served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

A BREAST CANCER SUPPORT GROUP meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month, 6 to 7:15 p.m. at office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413)

789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver and meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30-11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

A CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP meets the third Thursday of each month, 6 to 7:30 p.m., at the office of Maryann Paleologopoulos LICSW, Inc., 2 South Bridge Drive, Suite 1B, Agawam (at the rotary). Refreshments served. For more information or to register, call (413) 789-0200, visit www.springfieldmed.com, or email survivorshipprogram@gmail.com.

Scniors

Agawam Senior Center

Weekly calendar of events

Monday, Dec. 29: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9 a.m., Painting Club; 9:30 a.m., Line Dancing; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo; 5 p.m., Zumba Gold.

Tuesday, Dec. 30: 9 a.m., Knitting Class, Sewing Class; 10 a.m., Computer Tech Club Meets; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie (Ms. Congeniality); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 2:30 p.m., Chorus; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Beginner Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Dec. 31: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 p.m., Gentle Yoga; 11:30 a.m., Music with Norma Hopper; Mock New Year's Celebration; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble; No

Zumba Gold.

Thursday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day. Senior Center closed.

Friday, Jan. 2: 8 a.m., Yoga; 9:15 a.m., All Media Art; noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage; No Zumba Gold.

Lunch menu

Monday, Dec. 29: Chicken cordon bleu, mashed potatoes, gravy, dilled carrots, pears.

Tuesday, Dec. 30: Roast pork, roasted potatoes and carrots, applesauce, peaches.

Wednesday, Dec. 31: Beef pot pie, puff

Wednesday, Dec. 31: Beef pot pie, puff pastry, mixed vegetables, garden salad, baked good.

Thursday, Jan. 1: New Year's Day. Senior Center closed.

Friday, Jan. 2: Clam chowder, egg salad sandwich, cauliflower salad, diced pears.

Tickets available for Resorts Casino trip

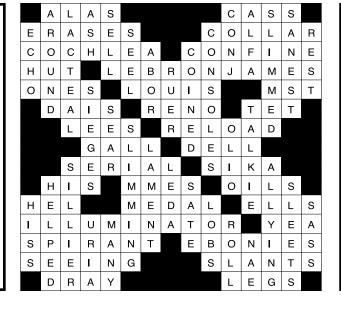
The Agawam Golden Agers, Chapter 2, will host a trip to the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, March 23 through March 25. This trip is open to the public. The cost is \$190 per person and includes deluxe motor coach, \$30 slot bets, \$10 food credit, two buffet coupons, a show and two nights stay at the casino.

The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills. For more information or reservations, call Art Usher 413-786-3567.



NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.



MOO-LICIOUS FARM

Closed for the Season Re-Opening February 14th

Our Secret Santa and the Angry Elves Toy Drive was a great success. We wish to thank Brittany Munson and the NHS Crew, Lifestyles Salon, The Southwick Lions Club, The Southwick Police Association, The Grange and the local community for their generosity.

258 Feeding Hills Rd., Southwick
(Across from Calabrese Farms)
www.mooliciousfarm.com

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-

Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better.

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1-888-798-8528

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Public Safety

POLICE LOG

The Agawam Police Department responded to 239 calls for service from Dec. 16 to Dec. 21. The department made 6 arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, Dec. 16

Luciano Colon, 43, of 79 Commonwealth Ave., Springfield, was arrested on charges of larceny under \$250 by single scheme and possession of a Class A drug.

Philip Thibodeau, 82, of 46 Harkness Ave., Springfield, was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle, and marked lanes violation.

Friday, Dec. 19

Cody Miltimore, 24, of 28 Clara St., West Springfield, was arrested on charges of no inspection/sticker, uninsured motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle with registration suspended, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, town ordinance violation – 94C 1 ounce or less Class D, and possession of an open container of alcohol in motor vehicle.

Saturday, Dec. 20

Reinaldo Laporte, 24, of 26 Lincoln St., Springfield, was arrested on a charge of trafficking in cocaine.

Autumn A. Stone, 25, of 1672 Westfield St., West Springfield, was arrested on a charge of operating a motor vehicle with license suspended.

Sunday, Dec. 21

Brandon Matthew Guyott, 25, of 146 Porter St., Granby, Mass., was arrested on charges of operating under the influence of liquor, second offense, operating under the influence of drugs, negligent operating of a motor vehicle, speeding in violation of special regulation, marked lanes violation, and resisting arrest.

FIRE LOG

The fire log for Dec. 16-22 was not available in time for the Agawam Advertiser News' deadline. It will appear in the Jan. 1, 2015, edition.

Business Legal Notices

AGAWAM ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS **LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT December 8, 2014**

Notice is hereby given that the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at the Agawam Public Library Conference Room, 750 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA on Monday, January 12, 2015 at 6:30PM for all parties interested in the appeal of Couture Partners, LLC. which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-7, Paragraph B(2) of the Town of Agawam's Zoning Ordinances which would allow for the construction of an addition to a residential structure with less than the required front setback at the premises identified as 11 Ruth Avenue

Doreen Prouty Chairperson Agawam Board of Appeals 12/25/14,1/1/15

Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.

HOW TO SUBMIT LEGAL NOTICES

All legal notices to be published in the Agawam Advertiser News should be sent directly to klanier@turley. com. Karen Lanier processes all legals for this newspaper and can answer all of your questions regarding these notices. Please indicate the newspapers and publication date(s) for the notice(s) in the subject line of your email. For questions regarding coverage area, procedures or cost, please call Karen directly at 413-283-8393 x271.

Turley Publications, Inc. publishes 15 weekly newspapers throughout Western Massachusetts. Visit www. turley.com for more information.

BASKETS, from page 1

"When the churches returned to having their own individual parish programs, AJWC renamed it 'Holiday Baskets,' and took over the project," said Theresa Conklin, who has been involved with it for the past 15 years.

While AJWC delivers the holiday joy, community involvement is a cornerstone of the program's success. Schoolchildren, from preschool to middle school, play an important role by collecting food at their schools during November. The four elementary schools, the middle school, the Early Childhood Center, and Pam's Place, a private preschool, all collect the fixings for a typical holiday meal.

Instant mashed potatoes and jars of gravy were collected at Phelps Elementary School; stuffing mixes at Robinson Park; canned vegetables and cranberry sauce at Granger and Clark schools; desserts and bread mixes were gathered by preschoolers. Middle schoolers at Doering School brought in all of the above items plus "pantry staples" such as peanut butter, tuna fish and soups.

Schools now serve as the primary collection, but for many years, residents also could donate food at various drop-off sites around town. The club eliminated those sites that when they became too "overwhelming" to handle.

"We received an abundant amount of food, but not enough of the items we wanted for a typical holiday meal," said Conklin.

When the club pared down its holiday basket collections and began relying solely on schools, it also designated what food items each school should collect. "This change helped us become more efficient because all the food came to us pre-sorted," she added.

Conklin said the school collections "provide students and their families with the opportunity to give back to their less fortunate neighbors and share in the giving spirit of the holi-

Conklin also sends letters to local supermarkets and town employees seeking monetary donations or grocery store gift cards. "Monetary donations are used primarily to buy gift cards for families so they can purchase nonperishable foods — such as turkeys or hams — to complete their holiday meal," she explained. "Geissler's Supermarket was especially generous this year, giving us a substantial discount on their gift cards."

In addition to the food collection, the club solicits sponsors who purchase clothing for specific children. Sponsors range from club members to junior high school students to school central office staff to Girl Scout troops, and even citizens who sign up through posts on social media.

Conklin recalled that one generous Agawam resident purchased Wal-Mart gift cards last year for each family to purchase presents. The Agawam Senior Center's knitting club also helps out by creating hats, scarves, and mittens that are distributed to families.

Every family receiving a holiday basket has been referred to the club and all receive follow-up phone calls to confirm they want assistance. The calls also provide information about children's names, ages, sizes, and types of clothing they need the most.



Turley Publications photo by Mike Lydick

Agawam Junior Women's Club members Rosalie Dialessi, left, and Theresa Conklin, who heads up the club's annual "holiday baskets" program, go over the list of needy families and seniors who will receive food, clothing, and

"This information is given to sponsors along with an assigned number to keep family identities private," said Conk-

Sponsors shop for gifts, wrap them, and drop them off at a Clinical Research Management Group, a local business owned by AJWC member Mary Cincotta and her husband Steve. The Cincottas have provided warehouse space on Main Street for the past eight years to store and sort dona-

Preparing for the annual holiday basket deliveries is "a real team effort" by the committee running the project, said Conklin. Her co-chair, Ginny Stempel, oversees the food collection in the schools while Conklin coordinates the donations, families, and sponsors. Other committee members include Mary Cincotta, who is in charge of the sorting process, and Linda Marino, who contacts each family referred to the AJWC. Conklin has served as committee chair or cochair for the past 12 years.

"It's a very time-consuming effort, especially during such a busy time of the year," she said. "But when you meet the people you're helping as you deliver their gifts, it makes it all worthwhile"

What they raised

According to Theresa Conklin of the Agawam Junior Women's Club, schoolchildren collected:

- 288 cans of vegetables
- 176 packages of instant mashed potatoes
- 153 cans or jars of cranberry sauce
- 82 packages of stuffing mixes
- 62 packages of desserts or bread mixes
- 93 other pantry staple items

Palange named top auto service executive

Frank Palange, a resident of West Springfield and owner of V&F Auto Inc. in Agawam, was recently named the 2014 Ratchet & Wrench's All-Star Award winner as the nation's top auto service executive.

Palange is dedicated to training and education, both for himself and his team. He participates in management training and has worked with the Automotive Training Institute for years. He provides training

for his team through various organizations, including ATI, ASE, Snap-On, Parson Emission and ATG seminars.

Palange was chosen because of his innovative and forward-thinking approach as a business owner who focuses not only



Frank Palange

on bettering the lives of those he employs, but also on making his community a better place for his customers.

"These individuals are some of the most selfless, skilled and inspirational professionals in the auto service industry," said Jake Weyer, editor of Ratchet & Wrench. "They are helping to drive the industry forward, making it better for their colleagues and customers."

Palange was also recognized the Affiliated Chamber of Com-

merce of Greater Springfield for the company's significant contributions to the strength of the regional economy. V&F Auto Inc. was named in November as a Super 60 Award Winner for 2013.

Gaynor promoted to team manager

Mel Gaynor, a Feeding Hills resident and independent consultant with Tastefully Simple,

Inc., is now a team manager with the national direct seller of easy-to-prepare foods. Gaynor earned the promotion through sales achievements and by adding new consultants to the team.

The promotion entitles Gaynor to a variety of benefits such as commissions bonuses, allowances more.

For more information Tastefully Simple about products, contact Gaynor at melandfamily@yahoo.com.

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– Jim Rohn

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Students at the Phelps Elementary School collected nearly 320 pounds of instant mashed potatoes and cans and jars of gravy for the Agawam Junior Women's Club "Holiday Baskets" program. Shown in front of the school's "giving" tables are, from left, first graders Kilee Barna, 7, Kaylin Barna, 7, Hayden Gebo, 6, Gabriella Gebo, 6, and Julien Gebo, 6.

SCHOOLS, from page 1

thetic they are," said Colbert.

Aidan Cauley, 7, said donating toys made him "happy" because he wants kids to have a better Christmas. "It's the best time to donate toys to help kids," said the first grader.

Fourth grader Sonny Pioggia, 9, said he felt "joyful" by giving to those who don't have as much. "It's a time of giving. It made me feel happy to do something for them."

His fourth grade classmate, Rachel Cohen, 9, said she liked being "helpful" by donating toys to children in need: "You have presents and they don't. They need toys to play with on Christmas. It takes away some of their sadness."

First grader Mia Oyler, 7, said the month of giving meant "celebrating" and being "thankful." Added the first grader, "It was fun — I was so excited.'

Phelps is one of the four Agawam elementary schools that participated in the annual toy drive and holiday basket program. The school that donates the most toys receives a plaque from the mayor, who each year issues a challenge to students. Last year, Phelps won the challenge, collecting more than 300

This year, it appears that Robinson Park Elementary School has collected the most

"Our toy count is 178. Six bikes with helmets were also donated," said Robinson Park principal Cyndi Palazzi. She added that there's an agreement among the schools that a bike and a helmet (estimated value \$70) count as seven toys — giving Robinson Park a grand total of 220 toys collected.

Granger Elementary School principal Cheryl Salomao said her students donated about 70 toys. She said the toy drive numbers aren't as high as the other schools because her students did several other charitable collections in the past month and a half — including collecting more than 1,200 items as part of the Mayflower Marathon food challenge.

Clark Elementary School Principal Shelley Russell said her toy collection was lower, only 27 toys, because students focused on collecting for the women's club. "We collected nearly 200 canned vegetables and cranberry sauce," she said.

'Month of giving' unique to Phelps

The "month of giving," created by the PTO nearly a decade ago, is unique to Phelps. Kellee Morello, a first-grade paraprofessional at the school, co-chaired this year's program with her husband Anthony, vice president of the Phelps PTO.

She said while many worthwhile organizations need help during the holidays, the animal shelter was chosen when it opened in 2013 and letters to troops also began last year because a student's father and a teacher's son-in-law were serving overseas.

"No one connected with Phelps is serving overseas in the military this year, but teachers said sending letters to the troops had value with students, so it was continued for this year," said Colbert. Morello said students once again collected for the animal shelter because "it's a good cause and the kids get such a kick out of helping the animals."

First graders empty their piggy banks

It was the school's 94 first graders, however, "who really took giving to the next level this year," said Colbert. In addition to participating in the giving program, they "adopted" a seven-year-old boy and girl at the Children's Study Home in Springfield as part of its annual Secret Santa program. The nonprofit charitable organization serves children, adolescents, and families with special needs throughout the Springfield area.

"They took change saved in their piggy banks — mostly pennies — and contributed \$368 to buy toys and clothes for the children they had 'adopted," she said.

The Phelps principal said she's proud of the effort all her students made to help others. "They brought back the meaning of holiday spirit of helping family and community," said Colbert.

FIRE, from page 1

says he will miss Lancour and the leadership he provided

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with him," said Molta. "He taught me a lot about the fire service and I had a great experience with him. I will really miss seeing him."

Sirois said Lancour has been a great advocate for the fire department and has served the town well.

"It's really the end of an era," said Sirois. "He is one of the most valued members of our department. It is so hard going forward to replace his experience out in the field. If you add up the experience of our younger guys at Station 2, it barely surpasses Jim's experience."

Sirois said he had confidence in Lancour's ability to help lead Station 2.

"Jim was always fair with this guys," said Sirois. "He expected a lot, and he never asked them to do anything he would not do himself."

Lancour, when asked about his proudest

accomplishment as a firefighter, declined to say. He said he was proud to serve the town and just did his job.

"We, as firefighters don't normally applaud the things we do or the people we save," said Lancour. "We are here to do our job."

Lancour did say one of his most sobering experiences was attending services in New York City with several of his colleagues following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center.

Lancour thanked his wife and kids for their support when it came to his commitment to the fire department. He nearly left the department to pursue a higher-paying job. His wife Dina convinced him to stay.

"This is what he loves and this is what he was good at," said Dina Lancour. "This is where he is the happiest."

Lancour's retirement follows a family legacy that included his great-grandfather, great uncle, and his father, who was a member of the Agawam Fire Department.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Firefighters surround Lt. Jim Lancour on the night of his retirement party last Thursday: from left, Firefighters Rich Giordano, Mike Defilipi, Jordan Molta, Lancour, Bob LaFrance, and Doug Cesan.

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The place to bee





Grade 7 social studies teacher Nicholas Bernier, the host of the Geography Bee, asks a question.



Richard Kagan and Karen Albano keep tally.

Turley Publications photos by Kimberly Hatch

gawam Junior High School held its seventh annual Geography Bee on Friday morning, dec. 19. Fifteen finalists, determined by a preliminary test given to every student in the school, took the stage to answer questions in turn. The winner, Mia DePalma, will go on to take a test that could qualify her for the state Geography Bee, which will take place in March 2015.



Jenn DeStefano confers with Nicholas Bernier.



Mia DePalma was the winner of Friday's event.



Bradley Forgette, one of the four



four finalists.



Dominic Zampiceni, one of the Megan Crawford, one of the four finalists.



Agawam Junior High School's auditorium was filled with students watching the Geography Bee.

Museums plan 'Wacky Week' programs for holiday break

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Museums have announced the slate of activities for the upcoming holiday vacation week. Visitors can enjoy a combination of fun activities, planetarium shows and performances by some of the region's best family performers. The offerings also include the popular Adventures in Gingerbread exhibit at the Springfield Science Museum and a festive display of snow globes at the D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts.

"Wacky Week" events kick off Friday, Dec. 26, with all four Springfield Museums open for their regular hours, plus activities at the Hasbro Games Art Discovery Center and shows at the Seymour Planetarium. On Saturday, Dec. 27, the activities and events shift into high gear with hula-hooping fun with HoopiVerse from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in SIS Hall, Wood Museum of Springfield History. HoopiVerse puts a new spin on an old pastime. They'll have plenty of hula hoops

to share and will help find the right hoop for all visitors.

"Wacky Week" is part of the museums' Family Fun series, which is supported by the TD Charitable Foundation. Funding for school vacation programs is also provided by the Irene E. and George A. Davis Foundation. MassMutual is the 2014 Premier Sponsor of the Springfield Museums.

Admission is \$18 for adults, \$12 for seniors and college students, \$9.50 for children 3 to 17 and free for children under three and museum members. General admission is free for Springfield residents with proof of address. Regular hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The museums are also open Monday, Dec. 29, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 413-263-6800, ext. 488, or visit springfieldmuseums.org.



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Parents can send 1 photo of their child to models@baystateparent.com with the child's name, age, town and parent's contact information. The finalists will be invited to our office (located in Millbury, MA) for a professional photo shoot. The winner will be chosen from the finalists and will be asked to come back for the final shoot and appear on the cover of the March issue of **baystateparent** West!

All entries must be received by Monday, January 19th.

Don't delay, enter your mini-model today! models@baystateparent.com

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Litz game celebrates former player

Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - Last Thursday night, the alumni of Agawam High School boys basketball team was out in full force for the Eighth Annual Brian Litz Memorial Scholarship Fund Alumni Game.

Litz's was a K-9 deputy sheriff in Ocala, a town in Marion County Florida. He was killed responding to a wellness check by a 74-yearold man on Feb. 7, 2004. Litz was 35.

The game was started by Tim Lockwood, a former teammate of Litz. He founded the game as a way to honor his friend and teammate. Litz was killed in the line of duty in 2004.

Lockwood described Litz as a great teammate and someone who he did his best to cheer on his teammates. Agawam was mired in a 56-game losing streak in 1987 when Litz was a senior.

"He was on the varsity and went 0-40 as a player," said Lockwood. "After he graduated, we finally broke the streak and our team went 12-8 that season. When we finally won a game, he was the first one on the court to come and congratulate us.'

Lockwood decided he wanted to do something to honor the memo-

Last Thursday, nearly 20 members of the Agawam alumni, in-

Please see LITZ, page 13



Current varsity member Nick Antico takes a jump shot.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Joe Stellato, Class of 2000, goes for a layup.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Cam Rivest tries to get by Minnechaug's Francis O'Brien.

Brownies too much for Falcons

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - A late second period goal by John Colwell propelled Agawam to a big win 6-2 over Minnechaug last Tuesday, Dec. 16 at Olympia Ice Center.

Colwell scored a huge insurance goal with 20 seconds left in the second period to put Agawam up 3-1. The Brownies would go on

to dominate the third period and make a winner of Connor McAnanama, who won his first start of

The puck was being boxed around behind the Minnechaug goal when Colwell took the puck on the left side. He would wrap right around the goal and put it in

Minnechaug was only able to get one goal back in the third period, and their offense was otherwise shut down.

The Brownies started out with a 1-0 lead in the first period when Seamus Curran's wrist shot was spot on. Curran was set up just inside the offensive zone for Agawam when he received a pass back from Zach Circosta. Curran then lifted a wrist shot that was helped by some traffic in front of Chaug goalie Stephen Bidus.

In the second period, Elijah Please see HOCKEY, page 13

Agawam wrestlers off to fast start

By Gregory A. Scibelli Turley Publications Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Agawam wrestling team has been very busy to start out the regular season.

The Brownies went 3-1 in the first multi-team dual meet action of the season at St. John's. But the Brownies dropped to 3-2 when they were defeated by Putnam last Wednesday night, 51-27.

Putnam took advantage of the numerous injuries Agawam has been dealing with early in the season and their experienced team picked up several wins in the meet.

Anthony Basile did have one of the victories for the Brownies. He was able to pin Xander Chapman in the first round. He scored an early takedown and needed just 46 seconds to grab the pinfall victory.

The rest of Agawam's victories came at the heavier weights, as their four of their final five competitors picked up victories.

Nick Hope, a contender to be Western Massachusetts champion at 285 pounds, picked up a one-minute pinfall victory over Jonathan Argueta. He struggled a bit after getting the takedown, but eventually scored the pin with a headlock pin combination.

Spencer Koziak picked up a win for Agawam at 220 pounds. Koziak is a newcomer to Agawam's starting lineup, but had no trouble scoring a takedown on Alisandro Hernandez from Putnam. He got the quickest pin of the night, winning in just 30 seconds.

At 195 pounds, Giovanni Lazio had a third-round pinfall victory. And at 170 pounds, Nick Blais picked up a 7-4 decision victory against Alex Claudio.

Paul Taft took a tough loss in the first round at 182 pounds. Callum Hastings and Dan Barrows also had their first career home matches, suffering losses for the

Last weekend, Agawam picked up a victory 45-36 over St. John's of Shrewsbury, 58-9, against Leominster, and 36-27 over Quabbin Regional. Their only loss came against Algonquin 49-30.

Agawam was scheduled to have a dual meet at home against West Springfield on Tuesday and are now preparing for their annual Phil Tomkiel Holiday tournament on Tuesday, Dec. 30 at 10 a.m.

Last year, Agawam won the whole tournament, beating out 13

See WRESTLING, page 13



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Nolan Chamberland shows off his playbook as he prepares to "coach" the alumni team.

LITZ, from page 12

cluding current varsity coach Dave Federico, laced up his high tops for a game against the current Agawam High players.

"It's a great cause for a great person," said Federico, a member of the Class of 1999. "I really have fun getting out on the court. It keeps me young. I also enjoy playing the game alongside guys I have played with and guys that I have coached in the past."

The event raises money for a scholarship that is given to a graduating Agawam player each year. The scholarship is awarded by a vote of the underclassmen players and the voting is anonymous.

The game features a team of 15 alumni players and the current varsity team. On the fifth anniversary of the game, Lockwood organized two games, one featuring a mix group against the varsity, and another between alumni players from the 1990's and 2000's. Lockwood said there was talk of doing two games every five years. That

COLLEGE NOTES

Rackliffe named to

ECAC Second Team

College Athletic Conference (ECAC)

announced its 2014 Division III New

England Women's Volleyball All-Star

Among those named to the ECAC

Second Team were Framingham State sophomore and Feeding Hills resident

teams on Wednesday, Dec. 17

Alycia Rackliffe.

DANBURY, Conn. - The Eastern

changed this week.

"I had a meeting with the board that puts together this game and the scholarships," said Lockwood. "We have so many guys that are interested in playing in the game that we decided we are going to do two games every year from now on. We used to have to turn people away and we did not like doing that. We also believe it will bring more people out and help the scholarship."

Brian Litz's father, Ray, said he is happy to see the team doing something to honor his son.

"They have kept the memory of my son alive," Ray Litz said. "We're so thankful they are having this game."

The junior varsity coach, Eric Balslou, lead the varsity team while 9-year-old Nolan Chamberland lead the alumni team.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

WRESTLING, from page 12

other teams with 218 points in the meet.

Graduated senior Brennen Leibel captured the 113-pound crown. Anthony Basile will be looking to avenge a finals loss last season at 145 pounds. He lost a 7-6 decision in last year's finals. Chris Ortega, Fred Karl-Morin, and Blais also won their weight classes in last year's tournament.

Hope was a runner-up.

Wrestling begins at 10 a.m. with preliminary round action.

Winter brochure program available

AGAWAM - The Agawam Parks & Recreation winter brochure is now available online at agawam.ma.us.

Information about January registrations for dances and lacrosse can be found in the winter brochure.



Brownies swept at indoor meet

Reed takes first in shot put

By Dave Forbes

Turley Publications Sports Staff Writer

NORTHAMPTON - The Agawam boys and girls indoor track teams kicked off their seasons with losses to East Longmeadow and Central at Smith College.

For the boys, senior Mike Reed took the top spot in the shot put at 42-8 1-2. Senior Jason Carleton placed second in the 55-meter dash at 6.96. Senior Jason Carleton added a fifth in the 300-meter dash at 39.30. Senior Cameron Czerpak placed eighth in the 1000 meters, as did junior Tom Tucker in the 55-mter hurdles with a time of 9.75. Sophomore Luke Ivanov came in 10th in the 55-meter dash at 7.27.

The boys placed sixth in the 4x400 meter

relay with a time of 4:11.27.

For the girls, senior Alexandria Stuetzel placed fourth in the 1000 meters at 3:32.78, as did freshman Sabrina Christie in the shot put at 28-05 3-4. Sophomore Paige Hardy came in seventh in the 55-meter hurdles at 10.34. Junior Grace Greene came in eighth in the high jump at 4-06. Junior Victoria Abramchuk came in ninth in the long jump at 13-08. Sophomore Sarah Carron finished in 10th place in the 300-meter dash with a time of 48.30.

The girls placed sixth in the 4x400 meter relay with a time of 4:52.35.

Dave Forbes is the sports editor for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com or by calling 413-283-8393 ext. 237.



Turley Publications photo sby Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam goalie Connor McAnanama tries to keep two Falcon players from scoring.



Anthony Piteo possesses the puck and looks for the goal.

HOCKEY, from page 12

Bard intercepted a clearing pass by Minnechaug. He then deked out two defenders, went to the goal and shot on target to give the Brownies a 2-0 lead.

Anthony Piteo would make it interesting for a while when he came up with a goal for the Falcons. Piteo got the puck near center ice. He beat the defense and sent a wrist shot in from short range to make it 2-1 Agawam.

Following Colwell's goal, Agawam had a strong period. They got goals from Circosta, Don Ingham, and Joe Mercadante.

Cameron Mariani scored Minnechaug's goal in the third period.

Cam Rivest had a good game, finishing with two assists. In all, 10 Brownies registered points with goals or assists.

Agawam did get off to a slow start as Minnechaug's first two lines were aggressive for the first 3:00 of the game. The Falcons managed to get four shots on goal, but came up empty on each shot.

The Brownies finally got their offense going midway through the period, but were outshot in the first period 11-7. Before long, Agawam took over the lead on shots and finished ahead with 26 shots to Chaug's 21.

Bidus finished with 20 saves while McAnanama had 19 in the victory. Agawam will be back in action on Saturday when they face Auburn at 7 p.m. at the Horgan Skating Arena in Auburn. The Brownies are 2-0-1.

Minnechaug is now 1-2 and will be back in action on Jan. 3 against Marlborough at 2 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center.

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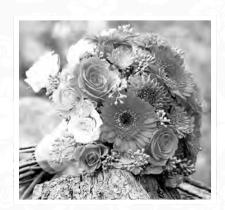














Obituaries & Church Nev

CHURCH DIRECTORY

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL **CHURCH**

745 Main St., Agawam 786-7111 Interim Pastor: Rev. Tom Howells Agawam1@verizon.net www.agawamcongregationalchurch.com

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m. Communion on the first Sunday of the

Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service. "A place to call home ~ A people to call

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill St., Feeding Hills 413-786-4174 Pastor: Ken Blanchard email agawamumc@gmail.com agawamworship.org

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Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap accessible at front entrance.

Worship At Country Estates Nursing Home: 2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.

Heritage East, 1st Mondays, 11 a.m. Heritage North, 1st Tuesdays 11 a.m. Heritage Woods, 1st Mondays 11 a.m.

AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

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Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 9am & 10:45am Christian Education offered during both

Nightlife Contemporary Service: Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Family Night: 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION

50 Maple St., Agawam (413) 304-2313

churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES Summer Schedule Sunday Service at 10 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

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370 Shoemaker Lane Agawam (413) 786-1681 www.jesussaves.7@comcast.com Website: www.faithbible -church.org Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m. Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS **CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

"An Open and Affirming Congregation." 21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills P.O. Box 264 (413) 786-5061 fhccucc@comcast.net

Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

760 Main St., Agawam Agawambc@localnet.com www.firstbaptistagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES Worship 9:30 a.m. Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children's Message until 10:45 Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45 Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St. Feeding Hills 789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES

Men's & Women's Bible Study Groups and Children's Sunday School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children's Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the

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David L. Short, Pastor

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Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m. Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

823 Main St., Agawam 786-8105 info@stjohnevangelistchurch.org. www.stjonnagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to

Labor Day) Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m., Latin Mass 12:30 p.m. Reconciliation: Fridays, 7:15 to 8 a.m.,

Saturdays, 4 to 4:45 p.m. Weekdays: Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8

Thursday: Communion Service



TICES & SERVI

Calvanese, Anthony F. Died Dec. 17, 2014 Funeral Dec. 20. 2014 Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

Votzakis, Evelyn Died Dec. 18, 2014 Funeral Dec. 22, 2014 Colonial Forastiere Funeral Home Agawam

Weinle, Michael J. Died Dec. 5, 2014 Funeral Dec. 23, 2014 Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home

News, upcoming events at Agawam Congregational

The public is invited to attend the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main St., "a place to call home — a people to call family." Sunday service is at 10 a.m. with a children's message, church school fellowship and coffee hour following.

Sunday, Jan. 4: Epiphany Family Communion Sunday, Joy/Youth Fellowship, a children's message, church school, and coffee/ fellowship hour following the service.

Tuesday, Jan. 6: Life Line Screening.

Thursday mornings: Playgroup, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Open to the public. The program follows the Agawam Public School sched-

Friday, Jan. 9: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Blood drive. Each eligible donor will receive a Baystate scarf.

Sunday, Jan. 11: Candidate Weekend. 10 a.m. Worship Service, a children's message, church school and coffee hour.

Saturday, Jan. 17: 7:30 a.m., Men's Ministry meeting at Bobbie J'z; 5:30 p.m., Pork Supper.

Sunday, Jan. 18: 10 a.m., Worship service with Congregational Budget Meeting, church school and coffee hour.

Monday, Jan. 19: Church office closed for the holiday; 4 p.m., Loaves & Fishes meets.

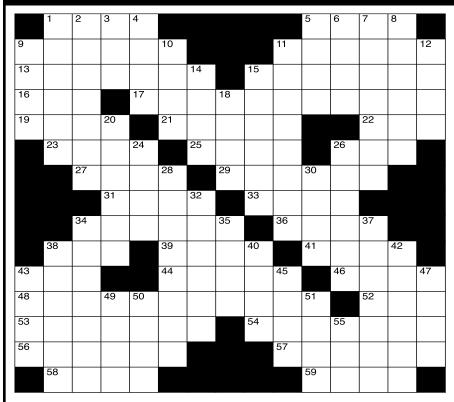
Sunday, Jan. 25: 10 a.m., Worship service, children's message, church school and coffee hour with Faith Friends.

Wednesday, Jan. 28: 9 a.m., Newsletter collation.

Pastor Tom Howells is always available for prayer after the service. Newcomers are welcome and members of the community are invited to participate in all church events. For more information, call the church office at 413-786-7111. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. until noon.

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CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 5. Mama ___, rock singer 9. Takes off
- 11. Make an arrest
- 13. Ear tube 15. Limit
- 16. Small shelter 17. Cavaliers' #23
- 19. Digits 21. French kings'
- name 22. Winter time in Colorado
- 23. Platform 25. Gambling town
- 26. Vietnamese offensive
- 27. Fermentation sediment 29. Load anew
- 31. Bile
- of death 44. Military award
- 46. Annexes 48. One who adorns

33. A wooded

valley

34. Soap opera

39. Women

36. Cervus nippon

38. Belong to he

(French)

41. Olive, motor

and mineral

43. Norse goddess

- book pages 52. Affirmative
- 53. Fricative 54. Coal blacks 56. Faculty of sight
- 57. Leans 58. Low, sideless
- cart 59. Locomotion

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Close to 2. Lactic
- 3. Burn residue 4. Offer for sale
- 5. Verb formation
- (abbr.) 6. __ Romeo
- 7. Lost weight 8. Soundest mind
- 9. Sound repetition 10. Sew up the eyelids of
- falcons 11. Allays sorrow
- 12. Repose 14. Mirish
- 15. Devised a new
- phrase 18. One who feels
- regret
- 20. War
- encirclements
- 50. Multiple 51. List of names
 - called

26. "The Jazz

Singer"

achieving #7

30. Miscellaneous

collection

34. More foolish

32. Express sorrow

35. Queen of Sparta

37. Associating by

treaty

42. Frozen rains

43. Snake sound

49. Murre genus

shots

47. Cheek

45. High arc tennis

38. Served

40. Satisfy

28. Process of

down

- 24. Burn the surface 55. No (Scot.)

Answers on page 8

Buzzin' from Town to Town

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GLENMEADOW AT HOME, a home care service for elders, is looking for per-diem CNA/PCA's who live near Wilbraham to service our clients in that area. We are hiring for all shifts. Must have reliable transportation and a valid driver's license. If you are interested, please apply to: Glenmeadow, 24 Tabor Crossing, Longmeadow, MA 01106. Please bring a photo ID and the contact information of 3 people we may contact as references (supervisors

MECHANIC - PT auto mechanic needed. Diesel experience a plus. Must have 10 years experience and be reliable. Clean background and license. Call (413) 583-6392

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CATEGORY: Base Price Base Price Base Price 30.50 31.50 32.00

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TOWN	STATE	ZIP	

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Help Wanted

THE BOARD OF Public Works is accepting applications for a PW-2 Light Equipment Operator in the Town of Ludlow, Dept. of Public Works. This is a permanent, fulltime position, 40 hours per week. It involves the operation of various light equipment and trucks. operation duties. Applicants must possess a CDL, Class B License. Applications are available from 9:00am to 4:00p.m. at 198 Sportsmen's Road and will be accepted until Jan. 02, 2015.

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JILL GRAVEL

HISTORIC HOME PALMER Live "mortgage free" in this vintage home by renting out the upstairs! Central Palmer location with easy access to stores, Post Office, churches, etc. Many upgrades. Has nice, wraparound porch. Will sell "as-is". Reduced! Now \$130,000. Call (413)283-4913.





Real Estate

Jones Group

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WARE: Near Quabbin Reservoir, 3 BR, 2 BA on 1.78 acres abounds with wildlife. Large eat kitchen.\$185,000

WARREN: Oversized 3 BRranch with beautiful view from your family room. Large patio, level back yard, minutes to pike and Sturbridge. \$209,900

WEST BROOKFIELD: Large spacious ranch with valley views. Oversized deck, 13 acres mostly open, garage/barn, sun room, some personal touches. \$290,000

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equal opportunity basis.

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WARE- 2-STORY 1 bathroom, 2 bedrooms, \$725.00 plus utilities, newly renovated, new appliances. no pets, 1st, last,

security, 24 Pulaski St. -413-813-9683

FOR RENT

For Rent



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development " HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

LUDLOW 181 STATE St. 2 BR apt. stove & fridge. No pets. W/D hook-up. \$700/ mo First, Last, Security (413)315-0368

LUDLOW 181 STATE St. 3 BR apt. stove & fridge. No pets. W/D hook-up. \$800/ mo First, Last, Security (413)315-0368

MONSON. 3 BEDROOM. Completely renovated, propane heat, lower than oil, \$100 toward first fillup. NO PETS!!! \$900/ mo. F/L/S (413)783-0192 Mr Allen

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INDUSTRIAL ZONED. FOUR buildings available, 500 to 5,000 sa.ft. Breckenridge St., Palmer. Also entertain offers for sale 10 acres (413)231-3131.

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WARM WEATHER IS year round in Aruba. The water is safe, and the dining is fantastic. Walk out to the beach. 3-bedroom weeks available. Sleeps 8. \$3500. Email: carolaction@aol.com for more

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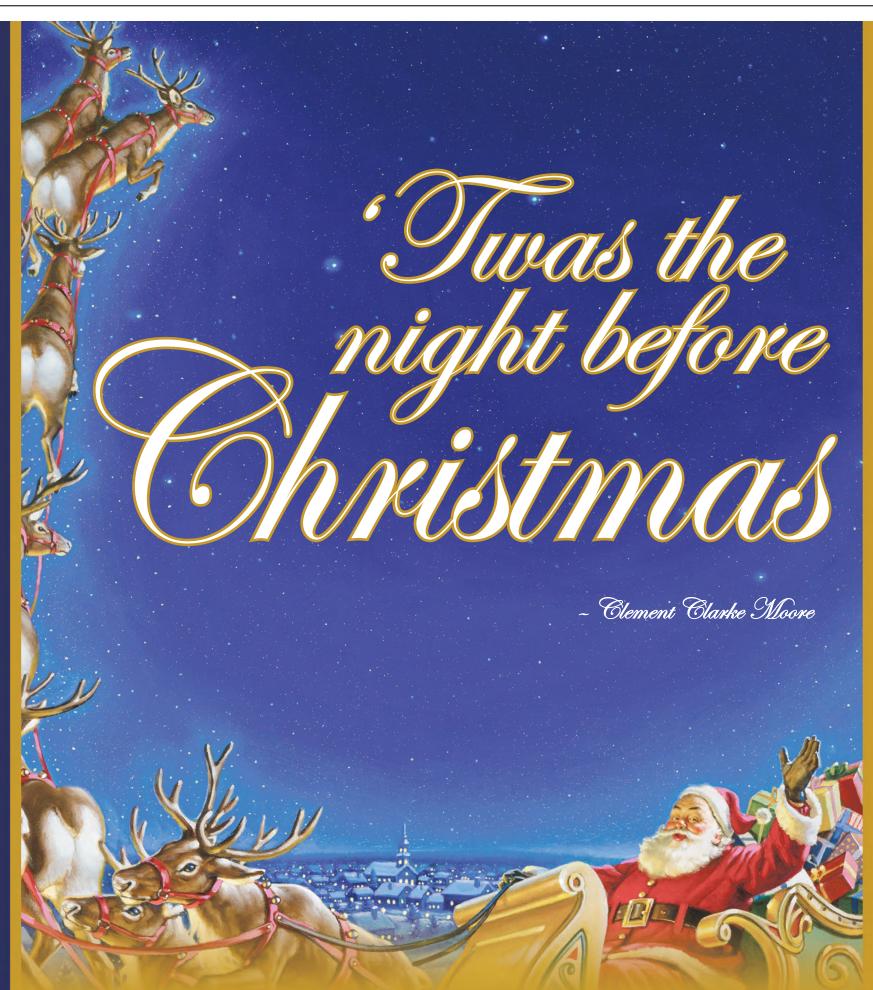
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was the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads. And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now DASHER! now, DANCER!
Now, PRANCER and VIXEN!
On, COMET! On, CUPID!
On, DONNER and BLITZEN!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"
As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot. A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow. The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath. He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself! A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"

Merry Christmas!



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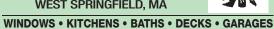
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